

## **Mail Theft – General Considerations To Avoid Becoming A Victim:**

- Mail Theft is a serious offense and is investigated by the federal authorities. Remember there may be a reward for you if you provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person involved in conspiracy or directly related to mail theft.
- Most instances of mail theft are due to the criminal's involvement in Fraud or Narcotics.
- If you see something breaking into a mailbox, call 9-1-1 and report this as a crime in progress.
- For further information or to report problems with broken mail boxes etc. contact your neighborhood postal office or the U.S Postal Service Office at 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777)
- Use a locking mailbox at your residence if you have a mailbox that is just for your home.
- Never leave mail in any collection box for a length of time or overnight. Mail theft can occur overnight when no one is watching and residents are sleeping.
- Never send cash in the mail, use checks or money orders.
- Prescription medications that are delivered by the mail are a popular target for thieves.
- If you are sending something valuable, use Registered Mail.
- Consider a P.O. Box to reduce your vulnerability to mail theft.
- If you don't have a secure mailbox, place all outgoing mail in a U.S. Post office mailbox. Even there, avoid overnight or long weekend times when the mail may sit uncollected.
- Report suspicious activity in and around mail receptacles.
- Watch for pry marks on the community mailboxes as well as broken locks. If this occurs do not use and report it immediately.
- Don't let others into an apartment mailroom without a key.
- When you move, notify your postal service and your correspondents of your new address before you move.
- Have a trusted neighbor or friend pick up your mail when on vacation.
- If at all possible have checks deposited into your bank account rather than receiving them in the mail.
- Light up the area around your mailbox or your cluster mailbox. A well-lit mailbox is less vulnerable to theft.

For additional information on mail related issues, refer to the US Postal Service website at [www.usps.com/postalinspectors](http://www.usps.com/postalinspectors).